IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:)		
KUSEL)		
Serial No.: NEW)		roup Art Unit: Unknown
Filing Date: October 23, 2003)	E	xaminer: Unknown
Title: VIBRATION DECOUPLER)		
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October 23, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Post Office Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Attached is (1) PTO-1449 sheet listing three (3) U.S. patents, six (6) foreign references, and one (1) non-patent literature document. All of the foreign references, except the European application, are not written in English. While the undersigned does not read or understand Japanese or German, the undersigned provides the following statement of relevance based upon the English abstracts as follows:

- (1) DE 42 29 416 A1 illustrates the two sections of the rotational damper that are braced on each other by coil springs (12) in curved slots. Each coil spring is shaped to fit the slot shape and has the end turn on each end flattened. This provides a thrust surface for the support faces and transfers the spring force at right angles into each section. One end has a double support face to grip the coil evenly while the other end has a narrow support strip in the center of the coil. The coil is compressed without a twisting action.
- (2) DE 40 30 285 A1 illustrates a torsion damping device of the kind comprising two rotatable parts with coil springs interposed between them. At least one friction pad is associated with each spring so as to come into engagement with a contact zone of one of the said coaxial parts. In accordance with the invention, there is associated with each of the friction pads an intermediate resilient member which is radially deformable and which has a first engagement zone for engagement with a turn of the spring, together with a second engagement zone for contact with the friction pad, the

intermediate resilient member being interposed radially between the friction pad and the spring.

- drive and driven members that includes a recess formed on one member and a hole formed on the other member at a position axially corresponding to the recess, the recess being arcuate in the circumferential direction and extending in the axial direction. A transmission roller having a crowned peripheral surface, extending in the axial direction and having a tapered surface at least one end, is fitted in the hole so as to be rotatable on its axis and movable along the radial direction. The roller is normally urged by pressure means radially inward and engages with the recess for transmitting the rotational movement of the drive member to the driven member. When an overload torque is applied, the pressure means permits the roller to move radially outward to disengage from the recess.
- (4) DE 37 30 939 A1 illustrates a driven clutch member 30 that is integral with a starter pinion gear (26, Fig. 1) and has a conical surface 56 that cooperates with a driving clutch member 20, driven by a power shaft (12), through one-way engagable clutch teeth 34, 36. A plurality of centrifugal flyweights 58 are arranged in respective cavities (64, Fig. 3) formed in the member 30. Each flyweight 58 has an inclined surface 86 which abuts the surface 56 and a thrust washer abuts the member 20 such that radial flyweight movement disengages the teeth 34, 36.
- (5) FR 2 575 799 illustrates a torque limiter device for a steering shaft. The invention relates to a device making it possible to limit the torque of a rotating vehicle steering shaft without risk of destroying the mechanical elements acting or operating around it. It consists of an outer sleeve 1 and an inner sleeve 2 each equipped with torque limiting ramps 21, 22, 23 and 24. The calibrated spring 4 held in compression in its housing 3 inside the outer sleeve 1 is held captive by crimping 5 of the zone 14, on the free ring 6, and therefore holds the torque limiting ramps 21, 22, 23 and 24 as well as the faces 16 and 17, facing one another. The outer sleeve 1 is made integral with the steering shaft 7 by welding 9. The inner sleeve 2 is made integral with the steering shaft 8 by welding 10. The steering shafts 7 and 8 are mutually opposite at the zone 11 and are not integral with one another. The inner sleeve 2 in its hole 25 has a shoulder 12 which allows, in the zone 11, correct positioning of the device in front of the welds 9 and 10 of the steering shafts 7 and 8 which come into abutment on the faces of the shoulder 12 of the inner sleeve 2. The device according to the invention is intended particularly for the protection of motor vehicles against theft, and the deterioration of the systems for protecting the steering shaft.

This IDS is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, <u>prompt</u> notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 Form, page 1, with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 are earnestly solicited along with an early action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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